

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method of automatically switching control of a bus in a processor-based device is provided. In a server, control of a bus is automatically switched from a controller mounted on the system board to a controller located on an optional expansion card upon connection of the expansion card to the system board. Automatic switching includes isolating the on-board controller from the bus and appropriately terminating any transmission line ends on the bus resulting from the establishment of the alternative control path.